

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL FORESTERS, INC.  
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Washington, D.C. 20005

NEWS NOTES NO. 19

June 1965

Permanent Committee on Tropical Forestry:

Tropical foresters of both hemispheres have long recognized the need for some agency that would provide continuing attention to the forests of the tropics, on a world basis. They have pointed out that a resource covering half the earth's forested areas - a resource on which literally hundreds of millions of the earth's peoples are dependent - merited attention from a world standpoint. They have emphasized that many major problems could best be resolved when implemented by world action.

Today, no such agency exists.

World forestry congresses have offered no solution. Meeting at intervals of five years or more, they afforded no continuing direction, and the time assigned to tropical forestry at the congresses themselves was usually far from adequate.

Last April, a definite proposal for just such an agency was made by a group of international foresters meeting at Duke University, in North Carolina, to form a symposium on tropical forestry problems. The group unanimously recommended the creation of a permanent committee on tropical forestry to function under the sponsorship of FAO. The committee's purpose would be to give continuing and systematic attention to tropical forestry on a world basis, and provide machinery for governments to be host to tropical forestry meetings.

It was a recommendation that could mark a long, forward step in speeding the progress of tropical forestry. But only if it is implemented; only if some member government of FAO requests that this proposal be placed on the agenda for consideration at the next FAO Conference. This cannot be left to individuals nor to FAO - it is a matter solely for governments. FAO acts only in response to the wishes of its member governments and only through such action can this recommendation hope to become a reality.

This proposal to create a permanent committee on tropical forestry should find strong support from member nations and be welcomed by FAO. It should establish continuing machinery for attacking problems that can better be solved by worldwide attention than by regional meetings. It should bring added strength and wider horizons to regional meetings themselves. It should help FAO's Forestry Division in simplifying the tropical forestry problems that each year increase in importance and complexity.

Tropical Foresters will owe a permanent debt of gratitude to the country that assumes leadership in sponsoring the creation of this committee. -- T.G.

Tropical Forestry Symposium: At the invitation of the Forestry School of Duke University, in Durham, North Carolina, an international group met April 21-26, to form a symposium on tropical forestry. Its purpose was to examine major problems seen from a world standpoint, to consider proposals for meeting them, and to publish a report. Twenty-six men coming from Europe, Africa, North and South America composed the symposium.

The discussions were divided into six sessions: I - Regeneration Practices; II - Shifting Agriculture; III - Utilization and Marketing; IV - Tropical Forestry Education; V - Forest Policy Administration and Legislation; VI - International Efforts and Needs. Each session was introduced by one or more papers.

The Symposium presented a number of recommendations, chief of which was a proposal to create a permanent tropical forestry committee under FAO. Regarding shifting agriculture, the Symposium warned that any government concerned for the survival of a population depending on shifting agriculture must either ensure that it is non-destructive or find other ways to support the population. It declared, moreover, that no amount of land-planning will save a nation's economy without compensating control of human populations.

Dr. I. T. Haig is now editing the Symposium report. This will include papers in full, a summary of the discussions and a listing of the recommendations which will be printed. It will appear as a publication of the School of Forestry of Duke University. The recommendations will be in English, French and Spanish.

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International Union of Forestry Societies: A meeting will be held during the Sixth World Forestry Congress in Madrid, to consider the creation of an International Union of Forestry Societies.

The desirability of forming such a union was suggested in a letter sent by the Committee on International Relations of the Society of American Foresters to a number of forestry societies throughout the world. The letter called attention to the fact that there is, at present, no international agency representing the forestry organizations of the nations, and that such a union could serve a number of purposes. It should advance the standards of forestry, promote the diffusion of knowledge concerning the science and practice of forestry, and provide a medium for cooperation and for the development of solidarity among foresters.

Replies to the letter were almost unanimously in favor of holding a meeting to discuss the establishment of such a union and, as a result, through the courtesy of the Organizing Committee, a meeting-place and translation facilities are to be provided at the World Congress, in June '66. If the representatives favor an International Union, matters of membership and administration will be laid before the meeting.

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Recent Word on the Sixth World Forestry Congress:

A publication recently issued by the Organizing Committee in Madrid, entitled "Provisional Program and Plan of Study Tours", contains the latest information on the Sixth World Forestry Congress. The dates are now set as June 6-18, 1966, and the Congress theme will be "The Role of Forestry in the Changing World Economy". Official languages will be English, French and Spanish.

Four plenary sessions have been arranged and ten specialized committees. The technical committee for tropical forestry will meet on Monday, June 13.

Official tours have been arranged to precede and follow the Congress, details and dates for which are being taken up with the Forest Services of France, Morocco and Portugal. There will be a festival of forestry films and an exhibit of forestry equipment.

June 6 will be given over to opening ceremonies and a general session. The official welcome to delegates will be held that evening. Final reports, resolutions and closing exercises are scheduled for June 18, the last day of the Congress. That evening there will be a banquet and gala dance. Schedules, at present, are provisional and a final program is to be issued early in 1966.

Two publications have already been made available,

"Guide Lines for the Program", and "Instructions for Contributors of Papers". These, and further information, may be had by writing Dr. L. Gimenez-Quintana, Associate Secretary General, Sixth World Forestry Congress, FAO, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome, Italy.

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Latin American Federation of Forestry Associations:

The need for closer international cooperation among forestry associations was made manifest at the last meeting of the Latin American Forestry Commission, held in Brazil. In response to wishes of the delegates, the first studies and contacts have been made for the purpose of creating a Latin American Federation of Forestry Associations.

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Publications: LA BATALLA FORESTAL by Enrique Beltran, Director of the Instituto Mexicano de Recursos Naturales Renovables. A keen and intimate analysis of the forestry problem and of forestry progress in Mexico, particularly during 1959-1964, the period during which Dr. Beltran was Under Secretary of Agriculture, in charge of forestry. This is a frank recital of successes and failures, together with their causes, as seen by one to whom forestry and conservation in Latin America owes a great debt. Written with the authority of one holding a high official office, but with the freedom of one who would soon relinquish that office, the book is a unique and valuable contribution to forestry literature.

DASONOMIA INTERAMERICANA, a new quarterly published by the Interamerican Institute of Agricultural Sciences at Turrialba. This is to consist of a collection of forestry articles taken from the periodical TURRIALBA. Eventually, it is planned to publish an independent journal. The first number contains articles in English and Spanish. Yearly subscription is U.S. \$2.00 and may be obtained from Servicio de Intercambio Cientifico, Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agricolas, Turrialba, Costa Rica.

REVISTA FORESTAL VENEZOLANA: Latest issue of this publication of the Forestry School of the University of the Andes contains a detailed article on the history and functions of the Latin American Forestry Institute for Research and Training. Other articles of interest include forest exploitation in under-developed countries, suggestions for a research program on forest products in Venezuela, and the cultivation of teak.

VADEMECUM FORESTAL PARA AMERICA LATINA: A provisional document prepared by the Regional Forestry Office of FAO at Santiago, Chile. In it has been gathered together a wealth of forestry information for Latin America. In its 85 pages are listings, together with names and addresses, of forestry commissions, committees and working groups, chiefs of forest services, agencies responsible for forest industries, forest schools of all grades, forest research institutions, forestry reviews and periodicals, and many other categories. A valuable and much-needed publication for which the Regional Office deserves congratulations and gratitude.

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Coming Meetings: A world symposium on fast-growing species will be held by FAO in 1967, somewhere in the Southern Hemisphere.

A world conference on watershed management is scheduled for 1969.

The FAO Technical Committee on Forestry and Forest Products meets in Rome, November 20 - December 10, 1965.

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ISTF members attending Tropical Forestry Symposium:

Flavio Bazan - to whom Peruvian Government awarded

"Encomienda del Merito Agricola

Enrique Beltran	E. S. Harrar
Harry G. Champion	J. O. Lammi
L. J. Cummings	A. C. Shaw
H. C. Dawkins	H. L. Shirley
C. A. Donis	Christopher Swabey
Tom Gill	J. A. Tosi
I. T. Haig	F. H. Wadsworth
V. L. Harper	R. K. Winters

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